Friendship 1950 the citizens of the two countries are free to move across Indo-Nepal border on reciprocal basis. Therefore, it is very difficult to have firm estimates of citizens of one country crossing into another country at any point of time. No large scale migration of people from Nepal to India has however, come to Government's notice. Also no cases of AIDS patients have been reported.

(c) and (d) There are reports of several divisive forces making efforts to infiltrate anti-national elements into the country but all concerned agencies especially in border areas have been alerted to keep strong vigil to prevent entry and exist of undesirable elements. Some of the measures adopted are as follows:—

(i) Government have taken steps to increase vigilance on the border to check the activities of undesirable elements and militants.

(ii) All Central and State Agencies have been instructed step up conforcement efforts in a coordinated manner.

(iii) Regular bi-lateral contact is being maintained with the authorities of His Majesty's Government in Nepal at various levels for closer cooperation between the agencies of the two countries for combating trans-border crime and terrorism.

Contract to KELTRON for supply of electrical and electronic items for Defence

*306. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government requested for offering contract to KELTRON, a State Public Sector Undertaing for supply of electrical and electronic items to Defence; and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The offers of M/s Keltron have been duly considered. During the last six years, orders worth over Rs. 29.5 crores have been given to the Company by the Department of Defence Production & Supplies alone Contracts amounting to Rs. 630.71 lakhs have been awarded to the company during 1997. Two offers of M/s Keltron are under consideration.

Funds for widening of State Highways

*307. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to fund the widening of heavily used State Highways;

(b) if so, the criterion adopted to assist the widening of specific State Highways;

(c) whether any such request has come from Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of roads declared as National Highways. Roads other than National Highways are essentially the responsibility of the concerned State Governments.

However, the Central Government provides assistance to the State Governments for roads of inter-State and economic importance. Under this scheme, 100 per cent loan assistance is given to the projects which have